New-England
A Degenerate
PLANT:

Who having forgot their former

Sufferings, and loſt their ancient tenderneſs, are now become famous among the Nations in bringing forth the fruits of cruelty, wherein they have far outſtript their Perſecutors the Biſhops, as by theſe their enſuing LAWS you may plainly ſee.

Publiſhed for the information of all ſober People who deſire to know how the ſtate of *New-England* now ſtands, and upon what foundation the *New-England* Churches are built, and by whoſe ſtrength they are upholden now they are degenerated and have forſaken the LORD.

The Truth of which we are Witneſſes, (who by their cruel hands have ſuffered)

- *John Rous* — Strangers
- *John Copeland* — Strangers
- *Samuel Shattock* — Inhabitants.
- *Nicholas Phelps* — Inhabitants.
- *Joſiah Southwick* — Inhabitants.

Whereunto is annexed a Copy of a Letter which came from one who hath been a Magiſtrate among them, to a friend of his in *London*, wherein he gives an account of ſome of the cruel ſuffering of the people of God in thoſe parts under the Rulers of *New-England*, and their unrighteous Laws.

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G. Pamph. 2817 (8)

New-England *a Degenerate* Plant, *as is manifest by their following* Laws.

At a General Court held at Boston, *the* 14. *of* October, 1656.

WHereas there is a curſed Sect of Hereticks lately riſen up in the World, which are commonly called *Quakers*, who take upon them to be immediately ſent of God, and infallibly aſſiſted by the ſpirit to ſpeak and write blaſphemous opinions, deſpiſing Government, and the order of God in Church and Common-Wealth, ſpeaking evil of Dignities, reproaching and reviling Magiſtrates and Miniſters; ſeeking to turn the people from the faith, and gain proſelytes to their pernicious wayes. This Court taking into ſerious conſideration the premiſes, and to prevent the like miſchief as by their means is wrought in our native Land, doth hereby order, and by the Authority of this Court be it ordered and enacted, That what Maſter or Commander of any Ship, Bark, Pink or Catch, that ſhall henceforth bring into any Harbour, Creek or Cove within this Juriſdiction, any Quaker or Quakers, or other blaſphemous Hereticks, ſhall pay, or cauſe to be paid the Fine of one hundred pounds to the Treaſurer of the Countrey, except it appear he want true knowledge or information of their being ſuch, and in that caſe he hath liberty to clear himſelf by his oath, when ſufficient proofe to the contrary is wanting, and for default of good payment, or good ſecurity for it, ſhall be caſt into priſon, and there to continue till the ſaid ſum be ſatisfied to the Treaſurer as aforeſaid, and the Commander of any Catch, Ship, or Veſſel that ſhall bring them, being legally convicted, ſhall give in ſufficient ſecurity to the Governor, or any one or more of the Magiſtrates

ſtrates, who have power to determine the ſame, to carry them back to the place whence he brought them, and on his refuſal ſo to do, the Governor, or one or more of the Magiſtrates are hereby impowered to iſſue out his or their Warrants to commit ſuch Maſter or Commander to priſon, there to continue till he give in ſufficient ſecurity to the content of the Governor or any of the Magiſtrates, as aforeſaid. And it is hereby further ordered and enacted, That what Quaker ſoever ſhall arrive in this Countrey from forreign parts, or ſhall come into this Juriſdiction from any parts adjacent, ſhall be forthwith committed to the houſe of Correction, and at their entrance to be ſeverely whipt, and by the Maſter thereof to be kept conſtantly to work, and none ſuffered to converſe or ſpeak with them during the time of their impriſonment, (which ſhall be no longer then neceſſity require.) And it is ordered, If any perſon ſhall knowingly import into any harbour of this Juriſdiction any Quakers Books or Writings concerning their Devilliſh Opinions, ſhall pay for every ſuch Book or Writing, (being legally proved againſt him or them) the ſum of five pounds; And whoſoever ſhall diſperſe or conceal any ſuch Book or Writing, and it be found with him or her, or in his or her houſe, and ſhall not immediately deliver the ſame to the next Magiſtrate, ſhall forfeit and pay five pouuds for the diſperſing or concealing of every ſuch Book or Writing. And it is hereby further enacted, That if any perſon within this Collony ſhall take upon them to defend the heretical Opinions of the ſaid Quakers, or any of their books or Papers as aforeſaid, if legally proved, ſhall be fined for the firſt time forty ſhillings; if they ſhall perſiſt in the ſame, and ſhall [illegible] the ſecond time, 4.l. if notwithſtanding they ſhall again ſo defend and maintain the ſaid Quakers heretical Opinions, they ſhall be committed to the houſe of correction till there be convenient paſſage to ſend them out of the Land; being ſentenced by the Court of Aſſiſtance to pay Dmen[illegible]. Firſtly, It is hereby ordered, That what perſon or perſons ſoever ſhall revile the perſon of Magiſtrates or Miniſters, as is uſual with the Quakers, each per-

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ſon or perſons ſhall be ſeverely Whipt, or pay the ſum of Five pounds. *This is a true Copy of the Courts Order, as Atteſts* Edward Rawſon, Secretary.

Made at the General Court held at Boſton, *the* 14 *of* October, 1657.

AS an Addition to the late Order, in reference to the Coming, or bringi ; in any of the curſed Sect of the Quakers into this Juriſdiction, It is Ordered, That whoſoever ſhall from henceforth bring, or cauſe to be brought directly or indirectly, any known Quaker, or Quakers, or other Blaſphemous Hereticks into this Juriſdiction, every ſuch perſons ſhall forfeit the ſum of One hundred pounds to the Country, and ſhall by Warrant from any Magiſtrate be committed to Priſon, there to remain till the penalty be ſatisfied and paid : And if any Perſon, or Perſons within this Juriſdiction, ſhall henceforth entertain and conceal any ſuch Quaker or Quakers, or other blaſphemous Hereticks (knowing them ſo to be) every ſuch perſon ſhall forfeit to the Country Forty ſhillings for every hours entertainment and concealment of any Quaker or Quakers, &c. as aforeſaid, and ſhall be committed to Priſon as aforeſaid, till the forfeitures be fully ſatisfied and paid : And it is further Ordered, That if any Quaker or Quakers ſhall preſume after they have once ſuffered what the Law requireth, to come into this Juriſdiction, every ſuch Male-quaker ſhall for the firſt Offence have one of his Ears cut off, and be kept at work in the Houſe of Correction till he can be ſent away at his own Charge ; And for the ſecond Offence, ſhall have his other Ear cut off, and kept at the Houſe of Correction as aforeſaid. And every Woman-quaker that hath ſuffered the Law here, that ſhall preſume to come into this Juriſdiction, ſhall be ſeverely whipt, and kept at the Houſe of Correction at Work till ſhe be ſent away at her own Charge ; and ſo alſo for her comidg again, ſhe ſhall be alike uſed as aforeſaid : And for every Quaker, he or ſhee, that ſhall a Third

time

time herein again Offend, they ſhall have their Tongues bored through with a hot Iron, and kept at the Houſe of Correction cloſe to Work, till they be ſent away at their own Charge. And it is further Ordered, That all and every Quaker, ariſing from amongſt our ſelves, ſhall be dealt with, and ſuffer the like puniſhments as the Law provides againſt forreign Quakers. *This is a true Copy of the Courts Order, as Atteſts* Edward Rawſon, Secret.

At a General Court held at Boſton, *the* 20. *of* May, 1658.

THat Quakers, and ſuch accurſed Hereticks, ariſing among our ſelves, may be dealt withal, according to their deſerts, and that their peſtilent Errours and Practiſes may be ſpeedily prevented, It is hereby Ordered as an Addition to the former laws againſt Quakers, That every ſuch perſon or perſons profeſſing any of their pernitious Wayes, by ſpeaking, writing, or by meeting on the Lords-day, or at any other time, to ſtrengthen themſelves, or ſeduce others to their Diabolical Doctrines, ſhall after due means of Conviction, incur the penalty enſuing; that is, Every perſon ſo meeting, ſhall pay to the Country for every time ten ſhillings; and every one Speaking in ſuch a Meeting ſhall pay Five pound a piece; and in caſe any ſuch perſon hath been puniſhed by Scourging or Whipping the firſt time according to the former Laws, ſhall be ſtill kept at Work in the Houſe of Correction, till they put in Security with two ſufficient men, that they ſhall not any more vent their hateful Errors, nor uſe their ſinful Practiſes, or elſe ſhall depart this Juriſdiction at their own Charges: And if any of them Return again, then each ſuch perſon ſhall incur the penalty of the Laws formerly made, for Strangers. *By the Court.*

Edw. Rawſon, Sec.

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An Act *made at a General Court held at* Boſton, *the* 20. *of* October, 1658.

WHereas there is a pernitious Sect (commonly called Quakers) lately riſen up, who by Word and Writing have publiſhed and maintained many dangerous and horrid Tenents, and do take upon them to change and alter the received laudable Cuſtoms of our Nation, in giving civil Reſpect to Equals, and Reverence to Superiors; whoſe actions tend to undermine the Authority of civil Government, and alſo to deſtroy the Order of the Churches, by denying all eſtabliſhed Forms of Worſhip, and by withdrawing from the orderly Church-aſſemblies, allowed and approved by all Orthodox Profeſſors of the Truth, and inſtead thereof, and in oppoſition thereunto, frequenting private Meetings of their own, inſinuating themſelves into the minds of the Simple, or ſuch as are leaſt affected to the Order and Government of Church and Common-wealth; whereby divers of our Inhabitants have been infected and ſeduced, notwithſtanding all former Laws made upon the experience of their arrogant and bold obtruſions to deſeminate their Principles among us, prohibiting their coming into this Juriſdiction, they have not been deterred from their impetuous attempts, to undermine our Peace, and haſten our Ruine.

For prevention thereof, This Court doth Order and Enact, That every perſon or perſons of the accurſed Sect of the Quakers, which is not an Inhabitant of, but is found within this Juriſdiction, ſhall be apprehended without Warrant, where no Magiſtrate is at hand, by any Conſtable, Commiſſioner, or Select man, and conveyed from Conſtable to Conſtable, until they come before the next Magiſtrate, who ſhall commit the ſaid perſon or perſons to cloſe Priſon, there to remain (without bail) until the next Court of Aſſiſtance, where they ſhall have a legal Tryal by a ſpecial Jury: And being convicted to be of the Sect of the Quakers, ſhall be ſentenced to be Baniſhed upon pain of Death.

Death. And that every Inhabitant of this Juriſdiction being convicted to be of the aforeſaid Sect, either by taking up, publiſhing, or defending the horrid Opinions of the Quakers, or the ſtirring up Mutiny, Sedition, or Rebellion againſt the Government, or by taking up their abſurd and deſtructive Practiſes, viz. Denying civil Reſpect to Equals and Reverence to Superiors, and with-drawing from our Church Aſſemblies, and inſtead thereof, frequent private Meetings of their own in oppoſition to Church-Orders; or by adhering to, or approving of any known Quaker, and the Tenents and Practiſes of the Quakers, that are oppoſite to the Orthodox received Opinions and Practiſes of the godly, and endeavouring to diſaffect others to civil Government and Church-Orders, or condemning the Practiſe and Proceedings of this Court againſt the Quakers, manifeſting thereby, their complying with thoſe whoſe Deſign is to over-throw the Order Eſtabliſhed in Church and State, every ſuch perſon upon examination and legal conviction before the ſaid Court of Aſſiſtance, in manner as aboveſaid, ſhall be committed to cloſe Priſon for one Month, and then unleſs they chuſe volantarily to depart this Juriſdiction, ſhall give Bond for their good Behaviour, and appear at the next Court of Aſſiſtants, where continuing obſtinate, and refuſing to Retract, and Reform the ſaid Opinions and Practiſes, ſhall be ſentenced to Baniſhment upon pain of Death; And in caſe of the aforeſaid voluntary Departure, not to Remain, nor again to Return into this Juriſdiction, without the allowance of the Council firſt had and publiſhed, on penalty of being Baniſhed upon pain of Death: And any one Magiſtrate upon Information given him, ſhall cauſe them to be apprehended, and if upon Examination of the Caſe he ſhall find juſt ground of ſuch complaints, he ſhall commit ſuch perſon or perſons to Priſon, according to his beſt Diſcretion, until he come to Tryal, as is above expreſt.

At a General Court *held at* Boſton, *the* 13*th.* *of* May 1659.

WHereas the General Court, *Octob.* laſt, for the reaſons mentioned in the Order then made for the preventing of thoſe evils which the curſed Quakers in their principles and practices are apt to procure in thoſe places where they come, did order, That all ſuch perſons (not being Inhabitants of this Juriſdiction, that are of the curſed Sect of the Quakers) who have at any time ſuffered what the Laws of this Juriſdiction from time to time have provided againſt ſuch perſons again arriving in any place of this Juriſdiction, ſhould be ſeized on, and committed to cloſe priſon, there to continue till the next Court of Aſſiſtants, when he, or they ſhall be ſentenced to baniſhment on pain of death.

And whereas *William Brend* (a known Quaker that hath formerly ſuffered the Laws) hath notwithſtanding the abovementioned Laws, come into this Juriſdiction, being ſent to priſon, and openly before the Court acknowledged himſelf to be one of thoſe the World in ſcorn called Quakers: this court doth therefore order, that the ſaid *William Brend* be committed to priſon, there to remain till the 16th. of this inſtant month, and then diſcharged the priſon, and ſhall depart this Juriſdiction on pain of death; and that if after the 18th. day of this inſtant *May*, he ſhall be found within any part of this Juriſdiction, he ſhall be apprehended and committed to priſon, to be proceeded with according to Law.

This is a true copy of the Courts Order, as attested Edward Rawſon *Secretary.*

To the Keeper of the priſon in Boſton, &c. you are required to execute this Order accordingly, Edw. Rawſon.

At

At a General Court held at Boston, *the* 11. *of* May, 1659.

IT is Ordered, That *Laurence Southwick*, and *Cuſſandra* his Wife, *Samuel Shattock*, *Nicholas Phelps*, *Joshua Buſſum*, and *Joſiah Southick*, are hereby Sentenced, according to the Order of the General Court in *October* laſt, to Baniſhment, to depart out of this Juriſdiction by the eighth day of *June* next, on pain of Death; and if any of them after the ſaid eighth day of *June* next, ſhall be found within this Juriſdiction, they ſhall be apprehended by any Conſtable or other Officer of this Juriſdiction, and be committed to cloſe priſon, there to lye till the next court of aſſiſtants, where they ſhall be tryed, and being found guilty of the breach of this Law, ſhall be put to death.

This is a true Copy taken out of the Courts Records, as atteſts

Edw. Rawſon *Secretary.*

The true cauſe of the baniſhment of thoſe ſix Inhabitants of Salem *in* New-England, *was becauſe they went not to their Meeting, and met together by themſelves at each others houſes; the cauſe being ſo ſmall, they were aſhamed its like to tell the crime, or what it was for, in this their ſentence, ſeeing alſo they had impriſoned, & whipt, and taken away great ſums of money from them for the ſame thing before.*

The Law for paying 5. s. *a week for ſuch as go not to their Meeting.*

IT is ordered & decreed by this Court, & Authority thereof, That whereſoever the Miniſtry of the Word is eſtabliſhed, according to the Order of the Goſpel, throughout this juriſdiction, every perſon ſhall duly reſort and attend thereunto reſpectively, upon the Lords Days, and upon ſuch publike Faſt-Days and dayes of Thankſgiving as are to be generally kept by the appointment of Authority; And if any perſon within this Juriſdiction ſhall without juſt and neceſſary cauſe withdraw himſelf from hearing the publike Miniſtry of the Word, after due means of conviction uſed,

he shall forfeit for his absence from any such publike meeting, five shillings; all such offences to be heard and determined by any one magistrate or more, from time to time.

This Law was made in the year 1646. and of late have been executed upon many Inhabitants, to the taking away land and houses, cattel and other goods from many that could not in conscience join with them in their Worship, because their hands are defiled with blood.

There is certain information sent, That the last General Court held in the third Month, called May that they have made, a Law, and proclaimed it in all their Government, That all such children, and servants, and others, that for conscience sake cannot come to their meeting to Worship, and have not Estates in their hands to answer this foregoing Law of 5.s. *per* Week, must be sold for slaves to *Barbados* or *Virginia*, or other remote parts, to pay their Fines.

A Copy of a Law made at New-Plymouth *in* New-England, *in the first Month*, 1658.

WHereas there hath been several Persons come into this Government, commonly called Quakers, whose Doctrines and Practises manifestly tend to the subverting of the fundamentals of Christian Religion, Church-Order, and the civil Peace of this Government, as appears by the Testimonies given in several Depositions, and otherwayes; It is Enacted by this Court, and the Authority thereof, That no Quakers, nor persons commonly so called, be entertained by any person or persons within this Government, under the penalty of Five pounds for every such default, or be whipt; and in case any one shall entertain any of those persons, ignorantly, if he shall testifie on his Oath that he knew them not to be such, he shall be free of the aforesaid penalty, Provided, he upon his first discovering

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ing them to be such, do discover them to the Constable, or his Deputy.

It is also enacted by the Court, and the Authority thereof, That if any Ranter or Quaker, or any person commonly so called, shall come into any Township within this Government, and by any person or persons, be known or suspected to be such a one, the person so knowing or suspecting him, shall forthwith acquaint the Constable or his Deputy, on pain of Presentment, and so liable to censure in Court, who forthwith shall diligently endeavour to apprehend them, and command them to depart out of the Township, and this Government; and in case any such person delay or Refuse to depart, then the said Constable or Deputy shall apprehend them, or him, and bring him, or them before the Magistrate in their Township if there be any, & where there is none, to the Select men appointed by the Court for that purpose, who shall cause him or them to be Whipt by the Constable or his Deputy, or pay Five pounds, and then conveighed out of the Township, and the same course is to be taken with every of them as often as any of them transgress this Order, in case of extremity for Harbour or Food, the Constable or his Deputy shall Relieve them for their Money; Provided, They suffer not any person or persons to Resort unto them whilest they are under their custody.

And forasmuch as the Meetings of such persons, whether strangers or others, proveth to the destructing of the peace of this present Government, it is therefore enacted by this Court, and the Authority thereof, That henceforth no such Meeting be assembled or kept by any person, in any place within this Government, under the penalty of 40. s. a time for every Speaker, and 10. s. a time for every Hearer, and 40. s. a time for the owner of the place that permits them so to meet together; And if they meet together at their silent (so called) then every person so meeting together, shall pay 10. s. a time, and the owner of the place 40. s. a time.

Forasmuch as it was ordered at *June* Court last, That all such as were house-keepers, or at their own disposes, that

were not Free-men, and have not taken the Oath of Fidelity to this Government, ſhould take the ſaid Oath by the time then prexed, or to be fined to the Collonies uſe the ſum of 5.l. And whereas divers perſons notwithſtanding all patience and long forbearance, refuſe to take the ſaid Oath, and yet make their reſidence amongſt us, It is therefore enacted by the Court, That every ſuch perſon or perſons ſhall every General Court be ſummoned to make their appearance thereat during the time of their abode in this Government; and if any ſuch perſon or perſons ſhall refuſe to take the ſaid Oath, ſhall be fined the ſum of 5.l. to the Collonies uſe.

Whereas the multitude of Free-men is but ſmall, and the Inhabitants of the Townſhips many more, who have equal votes with the Free-men in the choice of Deputies, who being the body of the Free-men, Repreſentative together with the Magiſtrates, have equal votes for the enacting of Laws, who by weakneſs, prejudice, or otherwaies it hath or may come to paſs, that very unfit or unworthy perſons may be choſen, that cannot anſwer the Courts Truſt in ſuch place.

It is therefore ordered, That at ſuch Courts as Magiſtrates and Deputies are to act in, in making Laws, and being aſſembled, the Court in the firſt place take notice of their Members, and if they find any unfit for ſuch a truſt, that they, and the reaſon thereof be returned to the town from whence they were ſent, that they may make choiſe of more and able perſons to ſend in their ſtead, as the time will permit.

Whereas it hath been an ancient and an wholſom Order, bearing Date, &c. That no perſon coming from other parts be allowed an Inhabitant in this Juriſdiction, but by the appointment of the Governor, or two of the Magiſtrates at leaſt, and that many perſons contrary to this order of Court, crept into ſome Townſhips, which are, and may be a great diſturbance to our more peaceable proceedings; Be it enacted, that if any ſuch perſon or perſons ſhall be found, that hath not, doth not, or wil not apply and approve themſelves

ſelves ſo, as to procure the approbation of the Governor, and two of the Aſſiſtants, that ſuch be enquired after; and if any ſuch perſons ſhall be found, that either they depart the Government, or elſe that the Court take ſome ſuch courſe therein, as ſhall be thought meet.

It is enacted by the Court, That henceforth no publike Meeting ſhall be ſet up, but ſuch as the Court ſhall approve of.

We had Information, that at a General Court at New-Haven, *they made a Law to this effect.*

THat every Quaker that came into their Juriſdiction the firſt time, ſhould be ſeverely Whipt, and be kept at Work in the Houſe of Correction; and the ſecond time be branded in the one Hand, and be kept at Work as aforeſaid; and the third time be branded in the other Hand, and kept at Work; and the fourth time be bored through the tongue with a hot Iron. This is the ſubſtance of their Law as we were informed, though not their Law word for word, becauſe we have not a Copy of it.

All theſe Laws have been cruelly and rigorouſly executed both on ſtrangers and inhabitants, to the impriſoning, whipping many ſeveral times over, Ear-cuttings, Brandings, and Baniſhments, Confiſcation of Goods, and at laſt baniſhment on pain of death from their Habitations and Families, which at preſent is the ſtate of ſome, and many more its like may be ere this time: Seven were baniſhed on pain of death, and by late information five were in priſon at Boſton *to receive the like Sentence, beſides what may be more.*

A true Copy of a Letter which was sent from one who was a Magistrate in New-England, *to a Friend of his in* LONDON.

Honoured Sir,

MY Respects presented to you and Mrs. *Brown*, hoping and desiring your present and eternal welfare, *&c.* As for the state and condition of things amongst us, it is sad, and like so to continue; the Antichristian persecuting spirit is very active, and that in the powers of this World; he that will not whip and slash, banish and persecute men that differ in matters of Religion, must not sit on the Bench, nor sustain any office in Commonwealth; Last election Mr. *Hatherly* and my self left off the Bench, and my self discharged of my Captain-ship, because I had entertained some of the *Quakers* at my House (thereby that I might the better be acquainted with their principles;) I thought better so to do, then with the blind World to censure, condemn, rail, and revile them when they never saw their persons, nor knew any of their principles: But the *Quakers* and my self cannot close in divers things, and so I signified to the Court I was no *Quaker*, but must bear my testimony against sundry things that they held, as I had occasion and opportunity; but withall I told them, That as I was no *Quaker*, so I would be no Persecutor: This spirit did work those two years that I was of the Magistracy, during which time I was on sundry occasions forced to declare my dissent in sundry actings of that nature, which although done with all moderation of expression, together with due respect unto the rest, yet it wrought great dis-affection and prejudice in them against me, so that if I should say some of themselves set others on work to frame a Petition against

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me, that so they might have a seeming ground from others (though first moved and acted by themselves) to lay me what they could under reproach) I should do no wrong, the Petition was with nineteen hands, it wil be too long to make rehearsal of; it wrought such a disturbance in our Town, and in our Military company, that when the Act of Court was read in the Head of the Company, had not I been present, and made a speech to them, I fear there had been such actings as would have been of a sad consequence. The court was again followed with another Petition of 54. hands, that I might be restored to them; or some satisfactory Reasons wherefore I might not: The court return the Petitioners an answer with much plausibleness of speech, carrying with it great shew of respect to them, readily acknowledging with the Petitioners, my parts and gifts, and how useful I had been in my Place, professing they had nothing at all against me, but onely in that thing of giving entertainment to the *Quakers*, when as I broke no Law in giving them a nights lodging or two, and some victuals; for our Law then was, *If any entertain a* quaker, *and keepe him after he is warned by a Magistrate to depart, the party so entertaining shall pay* 20. s. *a week for entertaining them*: Since has been made a Law, *If any entertain a* quaker, *if but a quarter of an hour, he is to forfeit* 5. l. Another, *That if any see a* quaker, *he is bound if he lives six miles or more from the Constable, yet he must presently go and give notice to the Constable, or else is subject to the censure of Court,* (which may be, *Hang him.*) Another; *That if the Constable know or hear of any* quaker *in his Precincts, he is presently to apprehend him, and if he will not presently depart the Town, the Constable is to whip them, and so send them away*; and divers have been whipt with us in our Patent; and truly to tell you plainly that the whipping of them with such cruelty as some have been whipt, and their patience under it, hath sometimes been the occasion of gaining more adherence to them, then if they had suffered them openly to have preached a Sermon: Also another Law, *That if there be a* Quakers *meeting any where in this Colony, the party in whose house, or on whose ground, is to pay* 40. s. *the Preaching-quaker* 40. s. *every*

hearer

hearer 10.s. Yea, and if they have Meetings, though nothing be ſpoken when they ſo meet, which they ſay, So it falls out ſometimes. Our laſt Law, That now they are to be apprehended and carryed before a Magiſtrate, and by him committed to be kept cloſe priſoner until he will promiſe to depart, and never come again, and will alſo pay his fees, which I perceive they will do neither the one nor other; and they muſt be kept onely with the Countreys allowance, which is but ſmall, (namely, courſe bread and water) no friend may bring them any thing, none may be permitted to ſpeak to them; nay, if they have money of their own, they may not make uſe of that to relieve themſelves. In the *Maſatuſets* (namely *Boſton* Collony) after they have whipt them, cut their ears, have now at laſt gone the furtheſt ſtep they can, they baniſh them upon pain of death if ever they come there again; We expect that we muſt do the like, we muſt dance after their Pipe; Now *Plymouth*-Saddle is upon the Bay-Horſe, (to wit, *Boſton*) we ſhall follow them on the career, for it is well if in ſome there be not a deſire to be their apes and imitators in all their proceedings in things of this nature; all theſe carnal and antichriſtian wayes being not of Gods appointment, effect nothing as to the obſtructing or hindering them in their way or courſe, it is onely the Word and Spirit of the Lord that is able to convince gainſayers; they are the mighty Weapons of a chriſtians Warfare, by which great and mighty things are done and accompliſhed: They have many Meetings, and many adherents, almoſt the whole town of *Sandwitch* is adhering towards them; and give me leave a little to acquaint you with their ſufferings, which is grievous unto, and ſads the hearts of moſt of the precious Saints of God, it lyes down with them, and riſes up with them, and they cannot put it out of their minds, to ſee and hear of poor Families deprived of their comforts, and they brought into penury and want, (you may ſay, by what means? and to what end?) as far as I am able to iudge of the end, it is to force them from their homes and lawful habitations, and to drive them out of our coaſts; *Maſathuſets* have baniſhed ſix of their own Inhabitants

bitants to be gone on pain of death, and I wish that blood be not shed; but our poor people are pillaged, and plundered of their goods, and happily when they have no more to satisfie this unsatiable desire, at last may be forced to fly, and glad they have their lives for a prey: As for the means by which they are so impoverished, these in the first place were scrupulous of an Oath, why then, we must put in force an old Law, that all must take the Oath of fidelity, this being tendred, they will not take it, and then we must adde more force to the Law, and that is, if any shall refuse or neglect to take it by such a time, shall pay 5 l. or depart the Colony.

When the time is come they are the same as they were, then goes out the Marshal, and fetches away their Cows, and other Cattle. Well, another Court comes, they are required to take the Oath again, they cannot, then 5 l. more, on this account 35 head of Cattle, as I am credibly informed, has been by the authority of our Court taken from them the latter part of this Summer; and these people say, if they have more right to them then themselves, let them take them, some that had a Cow onely, some two Cows, some three Cowes, and many small Children in their Families, to whom in Summer time, a Cow or two was the greatest outward comfort they had for their Subsistence. A poor Weaver that has seven small children, or eight, I know not which, he himself lame in his body, had but two cows, and both taken from him, the Marshall asked him what he would do, he must have his Cows, the man said, that God that gave him them, he doubted not, but would still provide for him To fill up the measure yet more full, though to the further emptying of *Sandwitch* men of their outward comforts, the last Court of assistants, the first *Tuesday* of this instant the Court was pleased to determine fines on *Sandwitch* men for meetings, sometimes on first dayes of the week, sometimes on other dayes, as they say, they meet ordinarily twice in the week besides the Lords day, 150 l. whereof *William Nuland* is 24 l. for he and his wife, at 10 s. a meeting, *William Allen* 46. l. some affirm it 49 l. the poor Weaver before spoken of 20 l. Brother *Cook* told me, one of the Brethren

at *Baſtable* certified him that he was in the Weavers houſe when (cruel *Barlow*) *Sandwitch* Marſhal came to demand the ſumme, and he ſaid that he was fully enformed of all the poor man had, and thought if all laid together it was not worth 10 l. what will be the end of ſuch courſes and practices, the Lord onely knows, I heartily and earneſtly pray, that theſe and ſuch like courſes neither raiſe up amongſt us, nor bring in upon us, either the ſword or any devouring calamity, as a juſt avenger of the Lords quarrel for Acts of injuſtice and oppreſsion, and that we may every oue find out the plague of his own heart, and put away the evil of his own doings, & meet the Lord by entreaties of peace, before it be too late, and there be no remedy.

Our Civil Powers are ſo exerciſed in things appertaining to the Kingdome of Chriſt in matters of Religion and Conſcience, that we can have no time to effect any thing, that tends to the promotion of the Civil Weal of the proſperity of the place, but now we muſt have a State Religion, ſuch as the powers of the world will allow (and no other) a State-Miniſter, and a State way of maintenance, and we muſt worſhip and ſerve the Lord Jeſus, as the world ſhall appoint us, we muſt all go to the publick place of meeting in the Pariſh where he dwells, or be preſented, I am informed of three or fourſcore laſt Court preſented, for not coming to publick meetings, and let me tell you how they brought this about, you may remember a Law once made, called *Thomas Hinks* Law, that if any neglected the worſhip of God in the place where he lives, and ſet up a worſhip contrary to God, and the allowance of this Government, to the publick prophanation of Gods holy day, and Ordinance ſhall pay 10 s. this Law would not reach, what then was aimed at becauſe he muſt do ſo and ſo, that is, all things there expreſſed, or elſe break not the Law in *March* laſt a court of Deputies was called, and ſome Acts touching Quakers were made; and then they contrived to make this Law to be ſerviceable to them, and that was by putting out the word (and) and put in the word (or) which is a diſjunctive, and makes every branch to become a Law, ſo now if any do neglect, or will not come to the publick Meetings,

10 s.

10.s. for every defect, certainly, we either have leſs wit, or more money then the *Maſſathuſets*, for, for 5 s. a day a man may ſtay away till it come to 12. or 13 l. if he had it but to pay them: and theſe men altering this Law now in *March*, yet left it dated *June* the 6th 1651. and ſo it ſtands as the Act of a General court, they to be the Authors of it ſeven years before it was in being, and ſo you your ſelf have your part and ſhare in it, if the Recorder lie not, but what may be the reaſon that they ſhould not by another Law made and dated that court, as well effect what was intended, as by altering a word, (and ſo the whole ſence) of the Law, and leave this their Act by the date of it charged on another courts account; ſurely the chief inſtruments in the buſineſſe, being privy to the Act of Parliament for liberty ſhould too openly have acted repugnant to a Law of *England*, but if they can do the thing, and leave it on a court as making it ſix years before the Act of Parliament, there can be no danger in this, and that they were privy to the Act of Parliament for liberty to be then in being, is evident that the Deputies might be free to act it, they told us that now the Protector ſtood not engaged to the articles for liberty; for the Parliament had now taken the power into to their own hands, and had given the Protector a new Oath, onely in general to maintain the Proteſtant Religion, and ſo produced the oath in a Paper in writing, whereas the Act of Parliament, and the Oath are both in one book in Print, ſo that they that were privy to the one, could not be ignorant of the other, but ſtill all is well, if we can but keep the people ignorant of their liberties and Priviledges, then we have liberty to act in our own wills what we pleaſe, we are wrapped up in a Labyrinth of confuſed Laws, that the free mens power is quite gone, and it was ſaid laſt *June* Court by one, that they knew nothing the freemen had there to do; *Sandwitch* man may not go to the Bay, leaſt they be taken up for Quakers, *William Nulant* was there about his occaſions ſome ten dayes ſince, and they put him in priſon 24 hours, and ſent for divers to witneſs againſt him, but they had not proof enough to make him a Quaker, which if he had he ſhould have been whipt, nay they may

not

not go about their own occasions in other Towns in our Colony but warrants lie in ambush to apprehend them, and bring them before a Magistrate to give an account of their businesse. Some of the Quakers from *Road* Island came to bring them goods to trade with them, and that for far reasonabler terms, then the professing, oppressing Merchants of the Country, but that will not be suffered, that unlesse the Lord step in to their help and assistance in some way beyond mans conceiving, their case is sad and to be pitied, and truly, it moves bowels of compassion from all sorts, except those in place, who carry with a high hand towards them, through mercy we have as yet amongst us worthy Mr. *Dunster*, whom the Lord has made boldly to bear testimony against the Spirit of persecution: Our Bench now is *Thomas* Prince, Governour, Mr. *Collier*, Captain *Willet*, Captain *Winslow*, Mr. *Alden*, Lieutenant *Southworth*, *William Bradford*, *Thomas Hinkly*. Mr. *Collier* last *June* would not sit on the Bench if I sat there, and now will not sit the next year, unlesse he may have 30 l. sit by him: our Court and Deputies last *June* made Captain *Winslow* a Major, surely we are all mercenary Souldiers, that must have a Major imposed on us; Doubtlesse the next Court they may choose us a Governor, and Assistants also, a free man shall need to do nothing, but bear such burdens as shall be laid upon him; Mr. *Alden* has deceived the expectation of many, and indeed lost the affections of such as I judge were his cordiall Christian friends, who is very active in such wayes, as I pray God may not be charged on him, to be oppressions of a high nature.

Written in December 1658.

This Letter was published, not by the direction or knowledge of the Author, who sent it over to his friend for private information, but seeing that upon the perusall it is found to be of publick concernment, which coming into the hands of some, it was thought meet to be published to the view of all.

Even the sea Monsters draw out the breasts, they give suck to their young ones. The Daughter of my people is become cruel like the Ostriches in the wildernesse, Lament. 4. 3.

THE END.